

Towards Tomorrow: Transforming Sarcoma Care in Bulgaria

HTA
EVIDENCE
MATTERS

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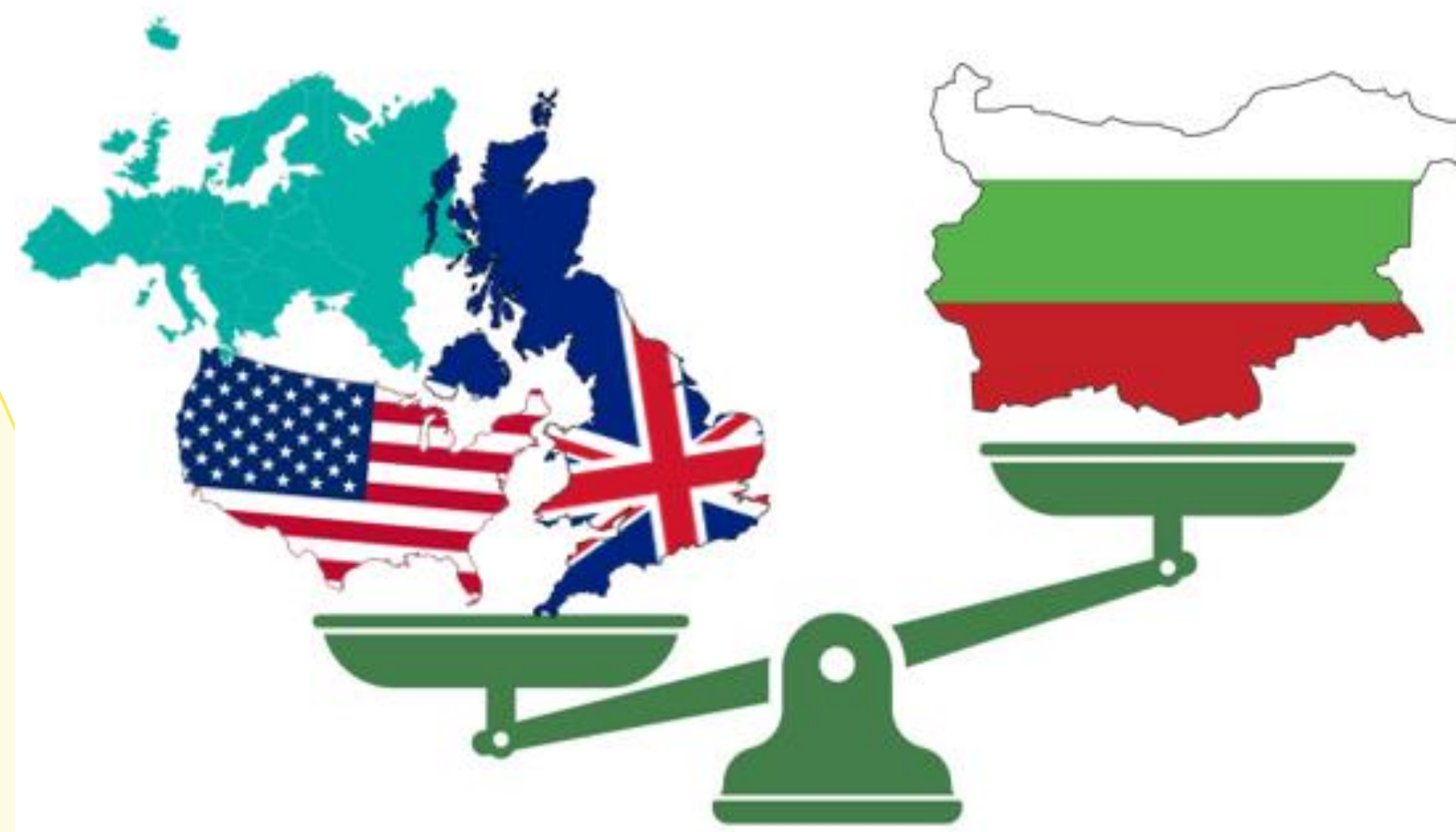
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INTRODUCTION

Sarcomas are a heterogeneous group of rare malignant tumors of mesenchymal origin, classified mainly into bone sarcomas and soft tissue sarcomas. Sarcomas represent over 20% of solid cancers in children but less than 1% in adults.⁽¹⁾ Comparing sarcoma care practices in the United States, United Kingdom, Europe, and Bulgaria, an in-depth review of the status and challenges of sarcoma care is presented.

METHODS

Qualitative data on sarcoma treatment practices, patient outcomes, and healthcare infrastructure in Bulgaria was collected in collaboration with the Bulgarian non-governmental organization "Together against Sarcoma" and clinical experts.



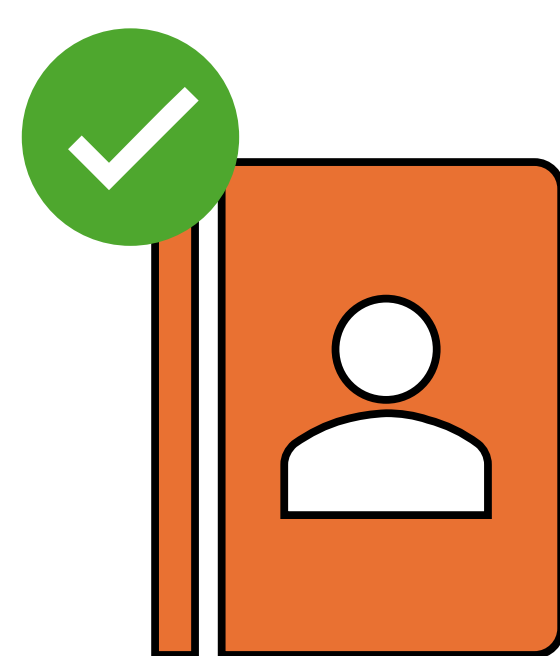
OBJECTIVE

The goal of the project is to perform gap analysis in sarcoma patient treatment and develop and propose strategies for improvement in Bulgaria.

RESULTS



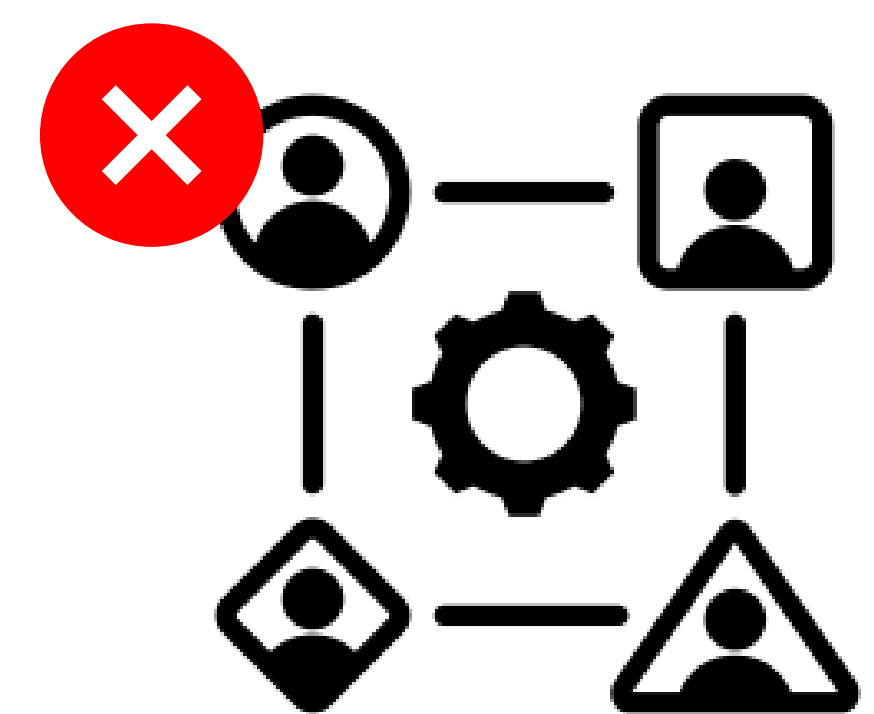
48 sarcoma centers in Bulgaria



Sarcoma treatment guidelines



Treatment and follow-up cost coverage



Multidisciplinary expert centers dedicated to sarcoma management



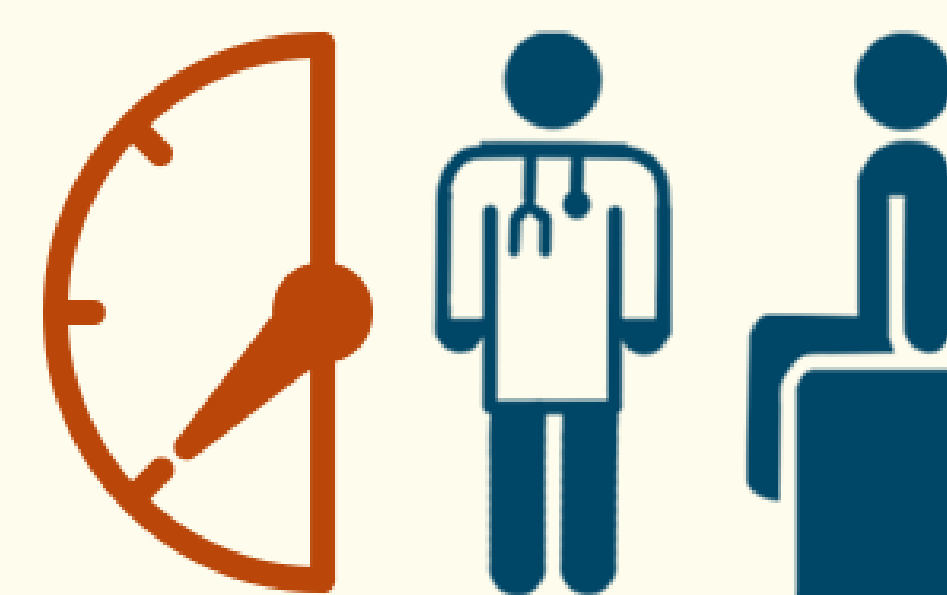
Delays in clinical decision making



Compromised patient survival



Suboptimal therapeutic choices



Low patient and doctor awareness



Compromised quality of life

CONCLUSIONS

The lack of specialized sarcoma centers with multidisciplinary teams impedes timely and effective care, compromising patient outcomes and quality of life. An exemplary patient pathway, multidisciplinary team structure, and criteria for dedicated centers offer a framework to address these gaps. Implementing these measures is crucial to improve sarcoma care quality, patient survival rates and well-being in Bulgaria.

REFERENCES

1. Yang J, Ren Z, Du X, Hao M, Zhou W. The role of mesenchymal stem/progenitor cells in sarcoma: update and dispute. *Stem Cell Investig.* 2014;1:18. doi:10.3978/J.ISSN.2306-9759.2014.10.01